

Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /051 W

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R 190855Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 117

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KS, MARR

SUBJECT: ROK PRESS HEADLINES REITERATION OF US COMMITMENT

1. ROK PRESS MAY 18 AND 19 HAS GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE TO SECRETARY'S MAY 16 PRESS COVERAGE ON KOREA AS WELL AS TO INTERVIEWS WITH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER BY ABC AND US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT. THRUST OF STORIES EMPHASIZED CONTINUING US COMMITMENT TO ROK.

2. SECRETARY KISSING'S REMARKS WERE REPORTED UNDER HEADLINES READING "ROK SECURITY VITAL TO US AND NORTH ASIA". STORIES QUOTED SECRETARY'S COMMENT THAT COMMITMENT IS NOT BASED PRIMARILY ON APPROBATION OF THE GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE BUT MUST BE BASED ON BELIEF THAT THERE IS MUTUAL INTEREST THAT BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE IN SECURITY. PRESS SAID SECRETARY HAD STRONGLY REAFFIRMED US DEFENSE COMMITMENT TO ROK. IT DID NOT REPORT ANY REFERENCE TO GULF DONATION TO DRP.

3. AFTERNOON PRESS MAY 19 HEADLINED SCHLESINGER COMMENTS TO EFFECT THAT HEART OF NORTH KOREA WILL BE ATTACKED IF NORTH STARTS A WAR. STORIES SAID THAT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER HAD TOLD INTERVIEWERS THAT US WOULD RESPOND MORE PROMPTLY AND FIRMLY TO SUCH AN ATTACK THAN IN VIETNAMESE CASE. PRESS NOTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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HOWEVER THAT HE HAD ALSO EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT NORTH KOREA WOULD ATTACK OR THAT PRC WOULD TAKE ACTION OTHER THAN TO PUT END TO WAR IF ONE BROKE OUT.
SNEIDER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
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